

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 03911 081223Z
ACTION AF-10

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R 081040Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5825

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 3911

FOR DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY REID

S/P FOR LAKE

AF FOR MOOSE AND HARROP

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AMGT, AFSP, SU
SUBJECT: TRANSITION AT EMBASSY KHARTOUM

REF: KHARTOUM 3864

1. MISSION IN KHARTOUM IS ENTERING A PERIOD OF RAPID GROWTH AND IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE DEPARTMENT--BOTH AT SENIOR SUBSTANTIVE AND MANAGEMENT LEVELS--TO BE AWARE OF WHAT IS HAPPENING. PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE IS TO INFORM YOU OF SITUATION HERE AND TO ALERT DEPARTMENT TO OUR NEED FOR SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND SUPPORT OVER NEXT YEAR OR SO WHICH WILL BE NECESSARY IF POLICY DECISIONS REACHED AT NSC LEVEL ARE TO BE IMPLEMENTED PROPERLY.

2. SEVERAL ELEMENTS HAVE COMBINED TO CREATE SEVERE STRAINS ON THE EMBASSY. USG DECIDED--OVER PAST YEAR--TO UNDERTAKE SIZEABLE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND MILITARY SALES PROGRAMS FOR VALID POLICY REASONS. WE ALSO BEGAN A MAJOR
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TRADE PROMOTION EFFORT WHILE AT SAME TIME DEMAND FOR ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL REPORTING HAS INCREASED. CONSULAR, COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER EMBASSY ACTIVITIES ALSO EXPANDED. IN SHORT, ACROSS BOARD, EMBASSY PROGRAMS WERE SIGNIFICANTLY EXPANDED IN PAST YEAR. DURING THIS PERIOD OVERALL REGIONAL SITUATION, NOTABLY IN HORN, BECAME CRITICAL AS RELATIONSHIPS AMONG LOCAL AND WORLD POWERS SHIFTED AND WAR CONDITIONS PREVAILED IN ERITREA AND

OGADEN. IMPORTANCE OF SUDAN UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES BECAME INCREASINGLY APPARENT. IN THIS ENVIRONMENT REPORTING AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS LEVIED ON THIS EMBASSY HAVE INTENSIFIED. FINALLY, COMBINATION OF EXPANDING ECONOMIC ACTIVITY HERE AND DETERIORATION OF LOCAL SERVICES HAVE PLACED STRAINS ON LIMITED MATERIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES AVAILABLE LOCALLY JUST AS EMBASSY'S OWN REQUIREMENTS WERE EXPANDING RAPIDLY.

3. DAO RECENTLY REEESTABLISHED HERE, AND AID OFFICE BEING EXPANDED AND UPGRADED. ON MARCH 31, 1977, MISSION HAD 21 AMERICAN POSITIONS. THERE ARE 26 POSITIONS NOW AND MINIMUM PROJECTION FOR JUNE 1978 OF 35 POSITIONS, NET INCREASE OVER FIFTEEN MONTH PERIOD OF CLOSE TO 70 PERCENT. MOREOVER, THIS FIGURE DOES NOT RPT NOT INCLUDE REQUIRED NEW ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS WE HAVE REQUESTED; USAF PERSONNEL WHO WILL BE HERE IN CONNECTION WITH PEACE PILLAR PROGRAM; AID AND DOD CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL; USG EMPLOYEES SUCH AS USGS, FHWA AND OTHERS WHO MAY BE HERE UNDER NON-USG OR AID FUNDED PROGRAMS; OR RISING NUMBER TDYERS. ALL THESE INDIVIDUALS ADD TO WORK OF EMBASSY. YET ALL SHOULD BE HERE AS WE IMPLEMENT USG POLICY TO ACCELERATE SUPPORT FOR SUDANGOV.

4. IN NOTING THESE POINTS IN NO WAY DO I WISH SUGGEST USG POLICY TOO AMBITIOUS. INDEED, I THINK WE PROPERLY SHOULD CONSIDER ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE AND PROGRAMS. MOREOVER, AS POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS UNFOLD, ONCE NIMEIRI BECOMES PRESIDENT
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OF OAU NEXT YEAR, AS ECONOMY DEVELOPS, AND AS OUR PROGRAMS NOTABLY AID PROGRAMS, ARE IMPLEMENTED, IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR OFFICIAL US COMMUNITY HERE TO GROW EVEN MORE. NEXT TWELVE TO FIFTEEN MONTHS WILL BE MOST DIFFICULT, HOWEVER, BECAUSE IT WILL BE DURING THIS PERIOD THAT EMBASSY WILL HAVE TO ABSORB RELATIVELY LARGE, RAPID GROWTH WHICH WILL BE PLACED ON PRESENT VERY SMALL BASE. IT WILL BE DURING THIS PERIOD THAT EMBASSY STAFFING PATTERN AND BUDGET WILL HAVE TO BE CONSIDERABLY INCREASED AND MOST URGENT REQUIREMENT FOR FURNISHINGS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES WILL EXIST. EMBASSY WILL BE IN CONTINUAL DIALOGUE WITH AF/EX AND OTHERS REGARDING MYRIAD MANAGEMENT AND ADVMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS THAT INEVITABLY WILL ARISE, BUT I BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT NOW TO BRING THIS SITUATION TO YOUR PERSONAL ATTENTION AND TO ENLIST YOUR SUPPORT. WE SHALL NEED IT.
BERGUS

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